

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15696 311118Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SAM-01 SAJ-01

IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 /065 W

----- 017449

R 311043Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8824

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15696

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, CH

SUBJECT: STANCE OF THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT VISITED CHINA IN EARLY JULY 1975. SINCE THEN, BROADCASTS FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND'S CLANDESTINE RADIO IN CHINA, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND (VPT), HAVE SHOWN A SLIGHT SHIFT TOWARDS ANTI-SOVIET THEMES AND A MODERATION TOWARDS THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT.

1. VPT, IN A LENGTHY JULY 29 BROADCAST, BLASTED "THE SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS" AND ACCUSED THEM OF "RAPIDLY EXPANDING THEIR AGGRESSIVE INFLUENCE IN THAILAND". (FBIS BK 290914Z JUL 75). THIS BROADCAST CHARGED THAT THE KGB IS INCREASING ITS CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY IN THAILAND, AND THAT THERE 100 KGB OFFICERS IN BANGKOK SUPPORTED BY ANOTHER 150 SOVIET OFFICIALS. VPT CHARGED JULY 30 THAT THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT WANTS THE SOVIET UNION "TO EXPAND ITS AGGRESSIVE INFLUENCE IN THAILAND AND THE REGION" (FBIS BK 300550Z JUL 75).

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 15696 311118Z

2. SINCE KHUKRIT'S CHINA TRIP, OUT OF WHICH CAME THE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN THE PRC AND THAILAND, VPT VITUPERATION TOWARDS KHUKRIT SEEMS TO HAVE MELLOWED. THE STATION, IN A MID-MAY BROADCAST, CALLED KHUKRIT "THE CUNNING" AND "THE TRAITOROUS PRIME MINISTER" WHO WAS "SELLING OUT THE NATION AND TELLING LIES TO THE PEOPLE" (FBIS BK 201322Z 16 MAY 75). SINCE KHUKRITS JULY 1 INTERVIEW WITH MAO TSE-TUNG, REFERENCES TO THE RTG NOW MENTION THE "REACTIONARY RULING CLASS" (FBIS BK 051115Y JUL 75) AND KHUKRIT'S "CLIQUE" (FBIS BK 300550Z JUL 75).

3. COMMENT: VPT CHARGES OF INCREASED KGB ACTIVITY IN BNAGKOK APPEAR EXAGGERATED. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE CHANGE IN THE SIZE OR COMPOSITION OF THE SOVIET COMMUNITY IN THAILAND IN RECENT MONTHS. IT CURRENTLY STANDS AT SOME 70 OFFICIALS OF ALL TYPES. THE VPT HAS NOT COME FULL CIRCLE ON KHUKRIT, BUT JULY'S MODIFIED VITUPERATION IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER MAY. AS OSCAR WILDE SAID: "THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN BEING TALKED ABOUT, IS NOT BEING TALKED ABOUT."

WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, COMMUNISM, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO15696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750264-0708
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975071/aaaaaapj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STANCE OF THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT VISITED CHINA IN EARLY
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, CH, (KHUKRIT PRAMOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006